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PM Modi commissions Vizhinjam International seaport

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 2 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi officially commissioned the Vizhinjam International Seaport on Friday, stating that the capacity of this transshipment hub would triple in the coming years, allowing some of the world's largest cargo ships to dock smoothly. In his speech following the commissioning of the Rs 8,686 crore project, he noted that 75 per cent of India's transshipment operations had previously been carried out at foreign ports, resulting in significant revenue loss for the country.

Emphasising that this scenario is now set to change, Modi asserted that Indian money would now serve India, and the funds that once flowed out of the country would instead generate new economic opportunities for Kerala and the people of Vizhinjam. He said ships from Kerala had long carried goods to other nations, establishing it as a vital hub for global com-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani at the newly-inaugurated Vizhinjam International Seaport, in Thiruvananthapuram.　　(PTI)

merce. "Today, the Government of India is committed to further strengthening this channel of economic power," the Prime Minister said, adding: "India's coastal states and port cities will become key centres for the

growth of a developed India." Praising the Vizhinjam port, developed by Adani Ports, Modi said people from Gujarat might be disappointed with Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani for building such a large port in

Kerala, despite hailing from the western Indian state himself. Modi also noted that Kerala Ports Minister V N Vasavan had referred to the Adani Group as a "partner" of the Communist-led state government, describing this as symbolic of the changes taking place in the country. Highlighting the importance of the private sector in advancing India's maritime industry, Modi said that under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, investments worth thousands of crores had been made over the past decade. He stated that this collaboration had not only brought India's ports up to international standards but had also made them future-ready, with private sector involvement driving innovation and increasing efficiency.

The PM further emphasised that a port economy thrives when infrastructure and ease of doing business are promoted together. "Over the past 10 years, this has been the blueprint of

Vijayan, Tharoor present at Kerala port inauguration: Modi says it will give 'sleepless nights' to many

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 2 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday took a swipe at the Opposition bloc INDIA and the Congress, saying the presence of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Shashi Tharoor at the commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Seaport here will give "sleepless nights" to many.

Modi's direct mention of Tharoor's presence at the event comes at a time when the Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram is being accused by his own party colleagues of going soft on the BJP after the Pahalgam terror attack.

Tharoor has also been criticised by some Congress leaders for praising India's deft

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor during the inauguration of the Vizhinjam International Seaport, in Thiruvananthapuram.　　(PTI)

diplomacy on the Russia-Ukraine conflict under Modi's leadership. Congress state unit

leaders have also objected to some of the comments made by Tharoor.

PM Modi launches projects worth Rs 58k crore in Andhra

AMARAVATI (Andhra Pradesh), May 2 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation for projects worth Rs 58,000 crore here that also included relaunching the construction of the greenfield capital city of Amaravati and assured full cooperation for the development of the southern State.

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for 94 projects, including capital city institutions, national highways, railway upgrades and defence-related installations.

AP Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his deputy Pawan Kalyan among others were present.

"Today, projects worth Rs 60,000 crore have been launched. These projects are not just con-

crete structures but they are a strong foundation of the ambitions of Andhra Pradesh and Viksit Bharat," he said.

"We all know Indralok's capital name was Amaravati and now Amaravati is the capital of Andhra Pradesh. This is not just a coincidence. This is a good sign for the construction of Swarna Andhra," he further said, referring to the TDP-led NDA government's ambitious target to transform the state into a USD 2.4 trillion economy by 2047.

'Swarna Andhra' will strengthen the path of Viksit Bharat and Amaravati will give energy to its vision, he added.

Amaravati is not just a town but a Shakti, to transform Andhra Pradesh into a developed state.

"I would like to reassure the people of Andhra Pradesh, and my associates who are sitting

Andhra will dedicate pioneering 'quantum valley' to nation on Jan 1, 2026: CM Naidu

AMARAVATI, May 2 (PTI)

ANDHRA Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said that the State will dedicate its pioneering "quantum valley" to the nation on January 1, 2026.

The Chief Minister inked agreements with IBM, TCS and L&T at his residence in Undavalli, which aim to establish India's "most advanced and first-of-its-kind quantum valley tech park in Amaravati".

"In a historic step toward India's technological future,

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu today announced that the state's pioneering quantum valley will be dedicated to the nation on January 1, 2026," said an official release.

The quantum valley tech park will be anchored by IBM's cutting edge 156-qubit Quantum System Two, which is expected to be the largest quantum computing system to be installed in the country.

Quantum computing is a multidisciplinary field comprising computer science, physics and mathematics, along

with quantum mechanics to solve highly complex problems quicker than regular computers. Calling quantum computing the foundation for next generation innovation and governance, Naidu emphasised that there is a need to include academia, startups and global partners, similar to the Silicon Valley.

Noting that financial constraints are not a hurdle, the CM urged for an aggressive, time-bound approach to build a scalable and replicable ecosystem that serves as a national benchmark.

here that you will always find me with you for the development of Andhra Pradesh," Modi said.

Further, referring to the iconic former Chief Minister N T Rama Rao, popularly known as NTR, Modi said the later leader had dreamt of a developed Andhra Pradesh. "We have to work unitedly to make Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh the growth engine of Viksit Bharat," Modi said. "We have fulfil NTR's dream. Chandrababu, brother Pawan Kalyan, we have to do it and we only have to do it," he said. As part of resuming the construction of Amaravati, the PM laid the foundation stone for 74 projects worth Rs 49,000 crore, which encompassed the construction of the Assembly, Secretariat and High Court buildings and judicial residential quarters, along with housing build-

ings for 5,200 families.

He laid foundation for infrastructure and flood mitigation projects featuring a 320 km long world-class transport network with underground utilities and advanced flood management systems in the greenfield capital city. The land pooling scheme infrastructure projects will cover 1,281 km of roads equipped with central medians, cycle tracks, and integrated utilities across the greenfield capital city of Amaravati. Likewise, the PM laid the foundation for nine Central projects worth Rs 5,028 crore, such as DRDO's missile testing centre (Rs 1,459 crore) at Nagayalanka in Krishna district, Unity mall in Vizag (Rs 100 crore), Guntakal–Mallappa Gate Rail overbridge (Rs 293 crore) and six national highway projects (Rs 3,176 crore).

Pak attempts to attack Indian websites linked to children

NEW DELHI, May 2 (IANS)

PAKISTAN has once again resorted to cyberattacks against India. In a continued wave of cyber offensives, Pakistan-sponsored hacker groups such as "Cyber Group HOAX1337" and "National Cyber Crew" made unsuccessful attempts to breach some websites.

Defence sources told IANS that these hacking efforts were promptly identified and neutralised by Indian cybersecurity agencies. The latest cyberattacks were carried out on Thursday.

Highly-placed sources submitted that among the latest provocations, the websites of Army Public School Nagrota and Sunjuwan were targeted and

attempted to be defaced with messages mocking the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

In another incident, a website catering to ex-servicemen's healthcare services was defaced, signalling Pakistan's growing frustration. There have been repeated attempts made by hackers operating from Pakistan to attack websites having linkages to children, old age veterans and other innocent people.

Resorting to attacking veterans and families' platforms reflects another low by Pakistan and their continuous attempt at unethical ways of operating.

The hacking of the Army Institute of Hotel Management's website and Indian Air Force vet-

erans' further illustrates the Pakistani establishment's intent to provoke and escalate tensions in the digital battlespace.

These brazen cyberattacks are part of a broader pattern of provocation by Pakistan, which has long employed terrorism and information warfare against India, sources added.

Defence experts said that it appears that Pakistan is testing India's restraint and patience.
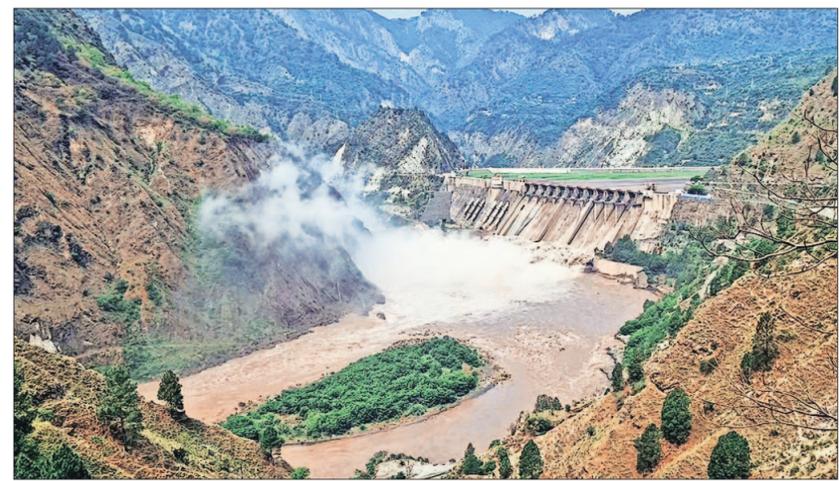
Before these latest cyberattacks, earlier in the past week, Pakistani cyber operators targeted Indian military-related websites, including those of the Army Nursing College, Army Public Schools, Army Welfare Housing Organisation, Army Welfare Placement Organisation

and others.

On April 22, terrorists opened fire on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. The brutal attack claimed the lives of 26 people.

The terrorists reportedly asked the names of the tourists before shooting at them. Since the incident, the Indian Army has launched an intensive operation against terrorists in the region.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has also been engaging in firing along the Line of Control (LoC). Since the Pahalgam attack, Pakistan has been continuously firing on the Line of Control. On the other hand, it is launching cyberattacks on institutions related to the Indian Army.

The gates of the Salal Dam open as the Chenab river swells up due to heavy rainfall, in Reasi on Friday.　　(ANI)

Police attach property of LeT terrorist in Poonch

JAMMU, May 2 (IANS)

CONTINUING its crackdown on terrorists and their network, police on Friday attached the property of a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Stepping up the offensive against cross-border terror networks, the police attached the immovable property of the terrorist.

Police said the action was taken under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), under which a case was registered against the terrorist at the police station in Mendhar.

The property, comprising one kanal and 11 marlas of agricultural land, located in the Kasblari area of tehsil Mankote, belongs to Mohammad Riyaz, son of Sain, a resident currently acting as a handler for LeT, based in Pakistan.

The police said that Riyaz is wanted in several cases related to terrorism.

As part of broader efforts to disrupt the financial and logistical support networks of terrorism to break the backbone of terrorists, their over ground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers, security forces have so far demolished the houses of several active terrorists in Kashmir.

No clear strategy from Govt on Pahalgam terror attack: Kharge at CWC meet

NEW DELHI, May 2 (PTI)

CONGRESS President Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday said, the Government had not come out with any clear strategy to deal with the situation arising out of the Pahalgam terror attack, even as he asserted that the entire Opposition was with the Centre on the issue.

In his remarks at the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the party's 24, Akbar Road office, Kharge also said the Government had accepted the party's demand for a caste survey but the timing "surprised us".

He, however, raised doubts over the Government's intentions and asked party leaders to remain alert to take the caste survey to a logical conclusion.

The Congress President credited former party chief Rahul Gandhi for the Government's decision to conduct a caste survey, saying the Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha had again proved that if "we raise the issues of the people with honesty, the Government has to bow down".

Noting that the party had extended all possible support to

the Centre in the fight against terrorism at the last CWC meeting, Kharge said no clear strategy had come from the Government even several days after the Pahalgam attack.

Gandhi had met family members of Shubham Dwivedi in Kanpur and demanded that the Government give martyr status and respect to the deceased, he noted. "We will unitedly and strictly act against any challenge that comes in the way of the country's unity, integrity and prosperity. The entire Opposition is with the Government on this issue. We have given this message to the whole world," Kharge said.

Nepal launches diplomatic initiatives to probe death of another student at Odisha's KIIT

BHUBANESWAR, May 2 (PTI)

CONCERNED about the safety of Nepalese students at KIIT in Odisha, the government of the neighbouring country on Friday initiated diplomatic efforts to ensure a high-level probe into the death of the 18-year-old girl studying here, a day after she was found hanging in the technology institute.

The body of the BTech computer science student, Prisa Sah, was recovered from her hostel room at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) on Thursday evening, police said.

The incident comes 74 days after Prakriti Lamsal, another

Nepalese student of the same institute, died by suicide on February 16.

There are around 1,000 Nepalese students in KIIT, according to officials.

The Nepal Embassy also took up the matter with Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, who assured them of all kinds of safety and security for students from the neighbouring country.

The embassy also contacted officials of KIIT, a statement issued by the Nepal government said.

In New Delhi, the Ministry of External Affairs said it was "deeply saddened" over Prisa's death.